

James Monroe to Major William Noland February 26, 1817.

Washington Feb 26. 1817.

Dear Sir:

It has been my intention since my communication with Col: Mearns last summer, to supply him with Mualph & his wife, and had my intention to my brother to that effect, I had been in the expectation that they were sent to you for hire, a dispute between Mr Jerniss & him, & the dread of punishment, have brought him to me. I fear that what you informed me, on the report of your friend, of his journey, is correct. I wish my people to work, but not to be cruelly treated. As soon as you gave me the hint, I wrote him, & my brother, to prevent any such improper conduct. This step of Mualph is an unfavorable circumstance. The difficulty attending it, is the danger, in case, of not supporting the authority of the overseer, that the negroes will be encouraged in their disobedience, & he would be helpless, which as I cannot attend there, to put things in order, may do me injury. I have however resolved to send Mualph to you, and to authorize you, to take him & his wife home,

James Monroe to Major William Noland. 26 February 1817. Monroe Papers. University of Virginia, in Monroe Papers in Virginia Repositories, reel 12.

for Col: Mores, for which purpose I enclose you
a line to my brother. Ralph need not go there at
all, & his wife will be delivered up on applica-
-tion for her.

I have pressed several gentlemen & sent them
to London. I hope they will turn out well, but
from what I hear there is some danger of it.

I hope to be up in a week or ten days.

with sincere regards
I am Dear Sir

[Transcription Page 1]

Washington Febry [February] 26. 1817.

Dear Sir

It has been my intention in my communication with Col: [Colonel] Mercer last summer, to supply him with Ralph & his wife, and having written to my brother to that effect, I have been in the expectation that they were sent to you for him. A dispute between Mr. Jennings and him, & the dread of punishment, have brought him to me. I fear that what you informed me, on the report of your friend, of Mr. Jennings, is correct. I wish my people to work, but not to be cruelly treated. As soon as you gave me this hint, I wrote him, & my brother, to prevent any such improper conduct. This step of Ralph is an unfavorable circumstance. The difficulty attending it, is, the danger, in case, of not supporting the authority of the overseer, that the negroes will be encouraged in their disobedience & he rendered useless, which as I cannot attend them, to put things in order, may do me injury. I have however resolved to send Ralph to you, and to authorize you, to take him & his wife home,

[Transcription Page 2]

For Col: [Colonel] Mercer, for which purpose I enclose you a line to my brother. Ralph need not go there at all, & his wife will be delivered up on application for her.

I have procured several Germans & sent them to Loudoun. I hope they will turn out well, but from what I hear there is some danger of it.

I hope to be up in a week or ten days -

With immense regard yours

Jas [James] Monroe